



ST. PIUS X PARISH

203-255-6134

834 Brookside Drive Fairfield, CT 06824

WWW.ST-PIUS.ORG



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

PARISH STAFF



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MASS TIMES

Daily	8:30AM, Monday-Saturday, Church
Monday	7PM, Extraordinary Form, Chapel
Saturday	5:15PM, Vigil Mass, Church
Sunday	7:30AM, 9AM, 11AM, Church
Holy Day	5:30PM, Vigil Mass, Church
	8:30AM & 5:30PM, Holy Day, Church

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation

Saturday, 4-5PM, Church
Wednesday, 7-8PM, Church

Baptism

Pre-baptismal classes are on the first Sunday of every month. Call the Parish Office to register for the class and to schedule your child's baptism.

Marriage

Registered parishioners should make arrangements one year in advance with the Parish Office. Visit www.st-pius.org for more information or call the Parish Office.

Communion for the Homebound

If you or a loved one would like to receive Communion at home, contact Deacon Don Ross at dnross@diobpt.org.

Anointing of the Sick

If you or someone you know is ill and would like to be anointed, call the Parish Office.

Becoming Catholic

The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) is open to anyone who wants to learn more about our faith or complete their initiation as a Roman Catholic. Call the Parish Office for more information.

PARISH INFORMATION

Office Hours	Monday-Thursday, 9AM-4PM Friday, 9AM-12PM
Parish Phone	203-255-6134
Religious Education	203-259-4800
Parish Email	secretary@st-pius.org
Parish Address	834 Brookside Drive, Fairfield, CT 06824

Parish Corporation

Lay Members	Kathryn Vogt, Art Wolf
Parish Finance Council	Jeremy Joyce, Chair

Art Credit: Tiepolo, Giovanni Battista. *The Immaculate Conception*. 1767 - 1769, Oil on Canvas. Public Domain.



Pastor's Note

Today's Readings

1st Reading:
Bar 5:1-9

Res. Psalm:
Ps 126:1-2,
2-3, 4-5, 6.

2nd Reading:
Phil 1:4-6,
8-11

Gospel:
Lk 3:1-6

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

John the Baptist begins his preaching mission shortly before Jesus begins His public ministry. In this way, John's words and baptism prepare the way for people to receive the full message of the Gospel – in fact, the Gospel next Sunday will show us in greater detail how even John himself knew the limits of his role as the forerunner of the Messiah. Of course, we are reading this Gospel in a season that focuses our preparation on the birth of

Jesus, and less on His public ministry. If our reading of Scripture were to line up in a chronological sense with the liturgical season, we would be reading from the first chapter of Luke's Gospel. Of course, the liturgical observations we celebrate allow us to experience two concepts of time.

First, we have what the Greeks called *chronos*. This refers to quantitative or exact time. King Herod, for example, famously asked the Magi the time of the star's rising, wanting to know the day and the hour. We live in *chronos*. The other famous Greek way of accounting for time is called *kairos*. This refers to qualitative time, the "right" or opportune time for action. We might describe our experience of *kairos* in words that evoke feeling, emotion, or a more abstract sense of things. As we read Scripture, we should always be alert to the fact that there is a chronological element – events and places that took place on a particular day in history – and a *kairos* element – the eternal God who is outside of and beyond time and space calling humanity to look beyond measurable time and see an eternal purpose and goal.

The account of John the Baptist appearing on the scene took place some thirty years after the birth of Jesus. That is the

chronos of the thing. We read it today on the second Sunday of Advent, which shows us that John's historical fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah has a resonance for us today that indicates something not bound by time. That is the *kairos* of the thing. The words "prepare the way of the Lord" are not limited to literally making a path. Isaiah and John the Baptist are not proposing a highway management plan. The preparation called for here is that reminder to look to something beyond, something perhaps less tangible, but no less real. In fact, this is precisely the course of action recommended by Advent. In this time, we will both prepare in practical ways for the celebration of Christmas – shopping, decorating, organizing – and prepare in spiritual, invisible ways to receive Jesus – prayer, fasting, almsgiving, contemplation. Advent invites us out of *chronos* and into a mystery, into *kairos* so that we can encounter God, not according to our particular schedules but according to His perfect time.

Tomorrow, December 9, we celebrate the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This great mystery, that Mary was conceived without original sin, is a powerful illustration of the difference between *chronos* and *kairos*. Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, at a moment in time. But God, who is outside of time, already knowing the saving power of His Son's death and resurrection, applied that grace – not yet won in *chronos* – to Mary. Divine power not limited by time and space thus works within time and space. This mystery is something powerful for our contemplation and prayer in Advent. It is also a holy day of obligation – we must dedicate some of our *chronos* to engaging with *kairos*.

Peace,

Fr. Sam

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 7

8:30AM.....+Lucy Patterson.....Bill & Patty Markham
 5:15PM.....+Bernard McConaghy.....Vogt Family

Sunday, December 8

7:30AM.....+Anthony Piliero.....Maffei Family
 9AM.....All Parishioners
 11AM.....+Romeo, Margaret & Robert Mentrasti.....K. Leon & A. Leon

Monday, December 9

8:30AM.....+Mary Margaret Niland.....The Chosen Group
 5:30PM.....All Parishioners

Tuesday, December 10

8:30AM.....+Jose Gomes.....F. Gomes & Family

Wednesday, December 11

8:30AM.....+Edith C. (Cushnie) Weighart.....J&M Miller

Thursday, December 12

8:30AM.....+Connie, John & Anthony Mallozzi.....Gleason Family

Friday, December 13

8:30AM.....+Erwin A. Maurer.....R&K Vogt

Saturday, December 14

8:30AM.....+Karl Corby IV.....S&M Francis
 5:15PM.....+Dr. John & Nancy Coyle.....Coyle Family

Sunday, December 15

7:30AM.....All Parishioners
 9:00AM.....+Robert Fox.....S&K Douglas
 11:00AM.....+Mary Jane Kaner.....J. Kaner



Sanctuary Lights

Church in Memory of James Kiraly
 Chapel in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes



Baptisms

We welcome the newly baptized into the Church:
 Hudson Oswiecimski



In Memoriam

Pray for our parishioners who recently passed:
 Anita Pucci

STEWARDSHIP

Offerings	November 24	December 1
Weekend	\$ 12,070	\$ 14,734*
Cathedraticum*	<u>-\$ 3,310</u>	<u>-\$ 3,310**</u>
Net Retained	<u>\$ 8,760</u>	<u>\$ 11,424</u>

*December 1 Weekend totals include gifts to the Mission , Monthly, Maintenance, and Thanksgiving Collections. Thank you for your generosity!

**The Cathedraticum assessment imposed on parishes is utilized to support the administrative function of the diocesan curia.



St. Pius X Offertory
 Online Giving



Consider switching to online giving—it's the easiest and safest way to donate. Get started now: Scan the QR code or visit www.st-pius.org/giving/. Questions? Call the Parish Office at 203-255-6134.



We Stand With Christ Construction Loan

- \$ 632,000 Current Loan Balance
- \$ 101,308 From 172 Gifts as of June 2024
- \$ 27,000 K of C Golf Outing Gift
- \$ 45,000 K of C Raffle Contribution



MON

9

Holy day of Obligation - Immaculate Conception of Mary, Mass 8:30AM, 5:30PM

DEC

WED

11

Adult Faith Formation, 7PM, Munro Room 2

DEC

SUN

15

Assemble Lunches for Merton House, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

DEC

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

Monday, December 9

Mass - 8:30AM, 5:30PM, Latin Mass 7PM, (No Vigil Mass)

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception asserts that, "from the first moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of Mankind, kept free from all stain of original sin." The Blessed Virgin Mary under this title is the Patroness of the Dioceses of the United States. Our Lady, Pray for Us!

PRAYER



ADORATION

Monday, 9AM - Friday, 9PM, Chapel

Adore our Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament! Stop by and visit for a few minutes or consider signing up for an hour. We have the following hours open - Tuesday, 8AM, 10AM, Wednesday, 10PM, Thursday, 10AM, Friday, 5PM.

To sign up or to become a substitute visit www.st-pius.org/adoration/ or scan the QR code.



ROSARY AND CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

Friday, 9AM, Church

Come pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy lead by Pat Heile. All are welcome to attend!

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

First Saturday, 9AM, Church

Join us for a devotion to Our Lady. We will pray the Rosary, Litany of Loreto, and follow with Benediction.



ST. PIUS X PRAYER LINE

We must never underestimate the power of prayer! Email your petitions and/or thanksgivings to Pat Heile, anytime, at stpiusxprayerln@aol.com. If you'd like to pray for others, let Pat know and she will add you to the Prayer Line Team.

MUSIC MINISTRY



SCHOLA CANTORUM

Practice, Sundays, 10AM, Choir Loft

Join the Choral Schola and help lead the liturgical music at the 11AM Sunday Mass as well as various Holy Days throughout the year. Contact Michael Lantowski at mikestro@ymail.com or call 203-255-6134.

YOUTH CHOIR

Practice Thursdays, 4:30-5:30PM, Church

All children in grades 2-8 are welcome. The Youth Choir will sing at the 9AM Mass on the last Sunday of each month. Email Cidalia Kettles at cidmezzo@gmail.com or Michael Lantowski mikestro@ymail.com.

Christmas at St. Pius X

CHRISTMAS EVE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM
6:00 PM
12 AM MIDNIGHT MASS
CHORAL PRELUDE AT 11:30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:30 AM
9:00 AM
11:00 AM



ADVENT



PRE-DAWN RORATE MASS

Saturday, December 14, & 21, 6AM, Church

The Rorate Mass is an ancient Advent tradition of offering a pre-dawn Mass in honor of the Blessed Mother in candlelight. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the Light of the world, who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady.

ADVENT AT ST. PIUS



DECORATE ST. PIUS X CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!

Monday, December 23, 4PM, Church

St. Pius X needs help getting ready for Christmas! If you're interested in decorating the Church, call the Parish Office at [203-255-6134](tel:203-255-6134) or email Cathy Hughes at chughes@st-pius.org.

EVENTS



ADULT FAITH FORMATION SERIES

Wednesday, December 11, 7PM, Munro Room 2

All adults (18+) of the parish are invited to join us for our Adult Faith Formation Series! This is the second of a 5-part series led by our parish priests. For December's session, we will be discussing how to live liturgically – incorporating the beautiful feasts and seasons of the liturgical calendar into our daily lives. We hope you will join us!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 22, 3PM, Church

Be sure to join us for our Annual Children's Christmas Pageant. If your child is interested in participating, scan the QR code to sign up. Email Patty O'Brien patty.marie.obrien@gmail.com & Darcy Ronan darcy.ronan@gmail.com with any questions.



YOUTH GROUP



FAIRFIELD LIFE TEEN + EDGE

LIFE TEEN - High School, Sunday, 6:30-8PM, School Portable

EDGE - Middle School, Wednesday, 6:30-8PM, School Gym

Life Teen + Edge, hosted at St. Pius X, is open to any middle and high school student. We provide a space for students to rest, make new friends, and be reminded of God's love for them through the gift of their Catholic faith. For more information, email Bill.Staley@SetonCollaborative.org or visit www.fairfieldlt.com.

SERVICE



ST. PIUS X SANDWICH MAKING - MORE WAYS TO HELP!

Saturday/Sunday, December 14/15

Join us in providing 250 lunches each month to **the Merton Center**. For this month, sandwiches made at home may be dropped off on Saturday, December 14, in the Community Kitchen Fridge. The lunches will be assembled during the December 15 Coffee Hour, after the 9AM Mass. To donate lunch items, scan the QR code or email Cathy Coyle at ccoyle@st-pius.org.



Wednesday, December 18, 7-8PM, Community Room & Kitchen

Our Wednesday night efforts continue as we make sandwiches for **nOURish Bridgeport**. The Wednesday crew is set with donations but if you'd like to help set up, make sandwiches or clean up, please email stpiussandwichmaking@gmail.com.

FELLOWSHIP



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, 6:30AM, Community Room

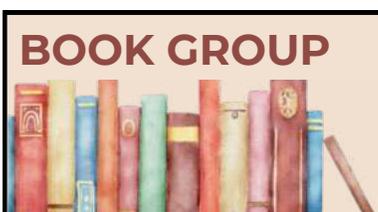
Join the men of the parish for prayer, conversation, and fellowship! For more information, contact Mark Drexel at drexel2424@optonline.net. We look forward to welcoming you!



SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

December 15, After 9AM Mass, Community Room

This weekend's Coffee Hour is hosted by the **Knights of Columbus!** Come to the Community Room for coffee and french toast. All are welcome!



WELL-READ MOM BOOK GROUP

Saturday, December 14, 9AM, Munro Room 2

Well-Read Mom accompanies women in the reading of great books and spiritual classics to encourage personal growth, friendship, and meaningful conversations about goodness, beauty, and truth. The month's book discussion will be on My God and My All: The Life of St. Francis of Assisi by Elizabeth Goudge. Email Karen Lannigan at karenlannigan0915@gmail.com with questions.



Advent is a time of joy, when we happily look forward to the coming of Jesus. Today's Gospel reading tells about how Saint John the Baptist went around telling everyone to repent and prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

An Advent wreath is a symbol of the coming of Jesus, our Light, into the world. It has three purple candles and one pink candle. One candle is lit on the first week of Advent, and one more is added every week until Christmas. Every week it gets a bit brighter because we are getting closer to Jesus' coming at Christmas.

The purple candles stand for repentance- being sorry and making up for our sins. The pink candle represents joy. It is lit on the third week of Advent because we rejoice that the waiting is half over.



Answer to Immaculate Conception Word-Find: HAIL MARY

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRAY FOR US!
FEAST DAY, DECEMBER 14

JOHN WAS BORN TO A POOR FAMILY IN SPAIN IN 1542. HIS FATHER DIED WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG. FOR SEVERAL YEARS HE WORKED IN A HOSPITAL.

JOHN BECAME A CARMELITE BROTHER, AND DECIDED TO LIVE BY THE OLD, STRICT RULES.

HE MET ST. TERESA OF AVILA, WHO WAS A CARMELITE NUN.
Here's what you can do...

We'd like to join you.

ST. JOHN STARTED A GROUP OF MONKS WHO WOULD LIVE BY THE OLD RULE.

BUT SOME OF THE CARMELITES DISAGREED WITH HIM AND PUT HIM IN PRISON!

HE ESCAPED 9 MONTHS LATER, BUT WHILE IN PRISON JOHN WROTE BEAUTIFUL POETRY ABOUT GOD.
Hm. God's love is like a fountain...

BY THIS TIME, JOHN WAS QUITE SICKLY. HE WAS TREATED BADLY AT FIRST, BUT BY THE TIME HE DIED EVEN HIS ENEMIES REALIZED HIS HOLINESS.

TODAY SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS WRITINGS. HE TAUGHT THAT WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO BE PERFECTLY HAPPY HERE ON EARTH BECAUSE WE ARE MADE FOR GOD IN HEAVEN. NEXT TIME YOU FEEL UNHAPPY, REMEMBER THAT PERFECT HAPPINESS IS WAITING FOR YOU IN HEAVEN!



In Advent we hear about Saint John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who prepared the way for Jesus' coming. He preached to the people, telling them to repent, and baptized them.

When Jesus came Saint John told the people to follow Jesus because He was the Messiah.

Can you find your way from Saint John to Jesus?

thekidsbulletin.com

Immaculate Conception
Word-Find

I S O U L B H O W L A
M A R Y I O K R I O L
M O T H E R E I T V M
A G A S O N P G H I S
C O N C E P T I O N S
U D J E S U S N U G T
L N E V E R I A T R A
A C H O S E N L R A I
T O F F E N D E D C N
E H E A R T F R E E Y



See if you can find the words that are written in CAPITALS.

The leftover letters spell the name of a special prayer we can say to Mary on her feast day.

This year, December 9th is the feast day of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. That is a name for MARY that means that GOD made her WITHOUT SIN because he had CHOSEN her to be the MOTHER of HIS SON. Her SOUL was FREE from ORIGINAL sin even before she was BORN. All her life she KEPT her HEART PURE and without the STAIN of sin. Mary NEVER OFFENDED God, and with his GRACE, she spent her whole life LOVING JESUS.



Young at Heart Christmas Luncheon



Catholic Heart Work Camp 2025

Seton Collaborative Youth Group

We will be flying to Nashville for a week of service work in Music City, USA. Open to all high school students. Total trip cost is \$1,250/person. Scholarship and fundraising opportunities are available. Visit www.FairfieldLT.com to register and for more info!

Secure your spot!
\$250
Deposit

Fundraising opportunities available!

Package Includes



- ✔ Camp Registration & Programs
- ✔ Airfare & Ground Transport
- ✔ Lodging & Most Meals
- ✔ S.W.A.G.



June 22-28, 2025



Register by Jan. 5, 2025 www.FairfieldLT.com